

20<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Produce World Group awards colleagues for ‘making a difference’**



‘Making a difference’ was the theme of the Pride of Produce World Group Awards held by the Produce World Group, the UK’s largest grower and supplier of fresh, high quality vegetables.

Individuals and teams within the organisation were honoured at the awards for ‘making a difference’ both within the organisation and to the lives of others outside the Group. The ‘Colleague of the Year Award’ went to Yasir Majeed who was praised for building exceptional working relationships with his team, with this being cited as a driving force behind the success of the Produce World Yaxley site in the last financial year.

Another individual winner at the awards was Darren Francis, a team leader at Produce World Isleham, who won the ‘Individual Special Recognition Award’ for saving someone’s life while managing the off-site Christmas storage facility.

A group of colleagues known as ‘Team Sky Dive’ was recognised for their fundraising activities, which included a sky dive record attempt, by winning the ‘Community Impact Award.’ To date the team has raised over £5,000 for the charity ‘Rays of Sunshine’ that grants wishes to terminally or seriously ill children.

In other awards, teams within the Produce World Group were recognised for 'making a difference' both to the Produce World business through making operational improvements and to colleagues by creating a positive working environment that encourages high standards of work.

This included the Produce World Sutton Bridge Quad Seal Team which won the 'Special Team Recognition Award' for implementing a rigorous machinery selection process leading to a positive impact on operations at Sutton Bridge; the Produce World Chatteris P5 Team which won the 'Outstanding Innovation of the Year Award' for its onion management solution in conditioning at Chatteris; and the Produce World Isleham Site Employee Forum (SEF) team which won the 'Team of the Year Award' in recognition for its staff engagement activities across the site.

Group HR Director David Frost said: "All of the winners at this year's awards have not only excelled in the jobs but have made a positive impact beyond their usual remit. Working at Produce World goes beyond 'making a difference' to the bottom line of the business, it's about making a positive difference across the Group and beyond."

The roll of honour for the Pride of Produce World Group awards includes the following:

#### **Outstanding Innovation of the Year**

Winner: Chatteris P5 Team

1st Runner-Up: Yaxley Tasty Jobs Team

2nd Runner-Up: Sutton Bridge Chute Handling Team (Red Shift)

#### **Community Impact of the Year**

Winner: Team Sky Dive

1st Runner-Up: Jacky Gray and Cathy Oytaben, Butterwick

2nd Runner-Up: Wayne Turner, Sutton Bridge

#### **Team Special Recognition**

Winner: Sutton Bridge Quad Seal Team

1st Runner-Up: Chatteris Logistics Yard

2nd Runner-Up: Isleham Wash-In Team

#### **Team of the Year**

Winner: Isleham SEF Team

1st Runner-Up: Butterwick Print Room Team

2nd Runner-Up: Yaxley Night Hygiene Team

#### **Individual Special Recognition**

Winner: Darren Francis, Isleham

1st Runner-Up: Silvia Howard, Chatteris

2nd Runner-Up: Simone Miles, Yaxley

## **Colleague of the Year**

Winner: Yasir Majeed, Yaxley

1st Runner-Up: Jon Murgatroyd, Chatteris

2nd Runner-Up: Cassandra Day, Isleham

**-Ends-**

**Produce World Group Website:** [www.produceworld.co.uk](http://www.produceworld.co.uk) **Produce World Group Twitter:** [@produceworld](https://twitter.com/produceworld)

## **About Produce World Group**

Produce World Group is one of the largest expert growers and suppliers of high quality fresh vegetables in Europe. It is a privately owned business, founded by the Burgess family in 1898, and the family ethos and values remain in place. The Produce World Group business is customer and category focused and it is an industry leader in sustainable and responsible agronomy, growing and lean supply chain management.

Its sourcing is a combination of produce from its own farming division Burgess Farms, joint-ventures, and collaborative working with dedicated grower groups, supplying a variety of root vegetables, potatoes, brassicas, alliums, and organic produce to leading retailers, food service and manufacturing customers.

Produce World Group is the UK's only fresh produce company that regularly donates produce to Fareshare, which enables the charity to plan more effectively each year. In October 2014 the Produce World Group was recognised for its work with Fareshare and Feeding the 5000 for redistributing this produce to help tackle food poverty across the UK by winning the CRTG Best Food Waste Initiative of the Year award. The Waitrose Way Awards also recognised this work, with the Produce World Group being highly commended for its entry into the Treading Lightly – Waste award category. In addition, the Produce World Group was highly recommended in the Champion British award category for its work with the BBC primetime TV programme Harvest, which aimed to raise consumer awareness of how the nation's food gets from field to fork.

Produce World Group is leading the way in sustainability, research and innovation in the agriculture sector. In late 2013 the Produce World Group, in collaboration with other commercial organisations and academic institutions, was awarded funding through Sainsbury's Organic Grant to look at innovative pest controls to improve the growth of organic brassicas. Through Agri-Tech Catalyst funding support, the group is working with Cranfield University to build on the success of the 'Soil-for-Life' project, which aims to inform on-farm decision making and drive innovation in soil management.

## **Media Enquiries:**

For further information, please contact Peter Crowe or Jack Melling at the Produce World press office on 01223 272800 or email [peter.crowe@war.uk.com](mailto:peter.crowe@war.uk.com) / [jack.melling@war.uk.com](mailto:jack.melling@war.uk.com)